



English Learners Newsletter

March 2022



The Importance of Writing

Why use ALDs and PLDs?

<https://tinyurl.com/elpa21-toolkit-usingaldsplds>

Tracking

Monitoring

Planning

[ELPA21 Achievement Level Descriptors](#)

[\(ALDs\)](#)

- Reflect what students can do

[ELPA21 Proficiency Level Descriptors](#)

[\(PLDs\)](#)

- Give goals of what students should do at the end of each level

[ELPA21 Constructed Response Rubrics](#)

[EL Toolkit](#) (Sign up) *link to activity: <https://tinyurl.com/elpa21-toolkit-usingaldsplds>

[ELP Standards](#) - Language Production #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10

| | |
|----|--|
| 1 | construct meaning from oral presentations and literary and informational text through grade-appropriate listening, reading, and viewing |
| 2 | participate in grade-appropriate oral and written exchanges of information, ideas, and analyses, responding to peer, audience, or reader comments and questions |
| 3 | speak and write about grade-appropriate complex literary and informational texts and topics |
| 4 | construct grade-appropriate oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence |
| 5 | conduct research and evaluate and communicate findings to answer questions or solve problems |
| 6 | analyze and critique the arguments of others orally and in writing |
| 7 | adapt language choices to purpose, task, and audience when speaking and writing |
| 8 | determine the meaning of words and phrases in oral presentations and literary and informational text |
| 9 | create clear and coherent grade-appropriate speech and text |
| 10 | make accurate use of standard English to communicate in grade-appropriate speech and writing |

Steps in the Process of Instruction

- High Expectations for All (Know ALDs and PLDs)
- Engage Students - with interesting tasks
- Observe - what students can do
- Scaffold/Support - with word banks, linguistic frames
- Reflect and Adapt - monitor progress and plan accordingly

| 9-12 WRITING-2 | | ENGLISH LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE MEASURE | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Scoring Rubric In Person vs. Remote (Part 1 of 2) | | | | | |
| PROMPT | <i>Recently, many schools had students learn from home (remotely or online) because of COVID.</i> <i>Do you like going to school in person or doing virtual (remote) learning better? Give advantages and disadvantages of both.</i> | | | | |
| SCAFFOLDS | ● Paragraph frame | | | | |
| LEVEL | For this Writing task, the student is performing at... | | Possible Answers | | |
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express an opinion about a familiar topic <i>One word or short phrase; may use sentence frames and/or graphic</i> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response Go to school In person Online Virtual learning | | |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written claim about familiar topic Gives a reason to support claim <i>Claim made clear; may use sentence frames and/or graphic organizer</i> | | I like _____ learning because _____ _____ learning is best. It is easier for me. | | |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written claim about familiar topic Gives several reasons to support claim Ideas given in logical order with a beginning, middle, & end <i>Includes advantages and/or disadvantages; may use sentence frames and/or graphic organizer</i> | | _____ learning is best. It is good because _____, I _____ when I learned online/in person. That's why I prefer _____ learning. | | |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insert written claim about familiar topic Gives sufficient reasons to support claim Ideas given in logical order with a beginning, middle, & end <i>Includes multiple advantages or disadvantages to support claim</i> | | _____ learning is best. One advantage is _____. Another advantage is _____. That's why I like _____ learning. | | |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written claim about familiar topic Gives high level of reasons & evidence to support claim Effective sequencing of ideas Introduction & concluding statement <i>Addresses counter claim, uses academic or content-specific words</i> | | _____ learning is best because you can work at your own pace. Another advantage is _____. Some people say (disadvantage of learning mode), but I disagree because _____. These are the reasons why I prefer _____ learning. | | |



Spotlight:

Grand Island Public Schools: Biana Ayala, an EL teacher at Barr Middle School, uses creative lessons to help her students learn English. She creates simulations such as the Olympics to engage her students. They are learning English through purposeful, explicit, and intentional instruction (PIE). See the [NTV news article and video clip](#).



**As of February 28th, we have 74% of all English learners who have completed the ELPA21 Summative. Test closes March 18th!

[Project ASSETS](#): We are excited to partner with ELPA21 and CRESST at UCLA to offer Nebraska School Districts and Family Care Centers an opportunity to build the capacity of content area teachers to infuse evidence-based EL best practices throughout content area coursework, and to build the capacity of parents/caregivers to increase language and literacy achievement of their EL children. Please complete [the survey](#) if interested.

ELPA21 Workshops: Nebraska Educators can participate in highly interactive, virtual professional learning but space is limited. To register, please see these flyers: [April 13 \(Formative Assessment\)](#), [April 19 \(DI#2\)](#), [April 21 \(Standards\)](#)

[Understanding the Influence of Linguistic Variation on Reading: Implications for Teaching](#): FREE Professional Learning Opportunity by AIM Institute, March 14, 2022 8:30-3:30 ET

Additional Resources

- [ESL Writing Activities](#)
- [ELPA Enrichment Activities](#)
- What Works Clearinghouse, [Four Recommendations for Instructional Practices for English Learners](#)
- Scholastic [Teaching English Learners: Strategies that Work](#) and [Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners](#)
- [TransACT ParentNotices SIS Integration](#)

Questions: Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your EL students or program.



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